

Splinting

Maine EMS Integrated Practical Exam for First Responder and EMT-Basic

Station #4 General Information

Objective

To ensure that each student can properly treat and immobilize fractures and dislocations. (Note: First Responder candidates do not perform the “Joint Injury” or the “Traction Splinting” skills).

Equipment

- ✓ Station 4 score sheets
 - *Immobilization Skills – Long Bone (First Responder, and EMT-B - random)*
 - *Immobilization Skills – Joint Injury (EMT-B -random)*
 - *Immobilization Skills – Traction Splinting (EMT-B-random)*
- ✓ Cards and Envelopes for Random Skill Draw
- ✓ Pillows
- ✓ Hare type traction splint
- ✓ 4 - Triangular bandages
- ✓ 6 - 3 or 4 in. stretch roller bandage
- ✓ 4 - Short padded boards
- ✓ 4 - Long padded boards
- ✓ 4 - Ladder splints
- ✓ 4 - Towels
- ✓ 4 - Washcloths
- ✓ 2 - Blankets
- ✓ 2 - Roles 1 in. tape
- ✓ Assorted air splints
- ✓ Cardboard splints or commercial splint package (Sam Splints)
- ✓ Padding: 4x4's, Abdominal Pads, etc.

Personnel

Practical Test Assistant meeting the training requirements for licensure at the EMT-Basic level, or other appropriately trained people.

Programmed patient.

Procedure

Two students will come to the station. First Responder students will demonstrate long bone splinting and EMT-Basic students will – by random selection – demonstrate long bone, joint or traction splinting. The student is not to know the type of injury picked until immediately before management begins. While one student is managing the injury selected, the second student is to be a silent helper who is trained and can follow directions. Each student is evaluated separately on their management capabilities.

Time

The time allowed for this station is 20 minutes. Start timing the candidate after all instructions and scenarios (if applicable) are explained and the candidate has indicated that he or she is ready to begin. Stop timing the station when the candidate indicates he or she has finished the skill. Do not count the time between each skill when you are explaining the next skill to perform or when explaining a new scenario.

Skill Sheet Completion

The Practical Test Assistant will complete the following NREMT skill sheets as part of this station:

- Immobilization Skills – Long Bone (First Responder, and EMT-B - random)
- Immobilization Skills – Joint Injury (EMT-B -random)
- Immobilization Skills – Traction Splinting (EMT-B - random)

To complete the skill sheet:

- Fill-in the “Start Time”, “Stop Time”, “Date”, Student’s Name “ (i.e. the student’s name) and “Evaluator’s Name” (i.e. the Practical Test Assistant’s Name)
- Fill-in the “Points Awarded” section of each skill task. If the student performs the task, award the point. If the student fails to complete the task, enter “0” in the “Points Awarded” box
- Make a note at the bottom or on the reverse side of the sheet indicating why the point was not awarded for each task that the student fails to perform. The note should include what the student did or did not do and why the point was not awarded
- Use the Critical Skills Section at the bottom of the skill sheet to note any missed critical skills. Each missed critical skill deducts 3 points from the “top” score.
- Total the numbers at the “top”, then deduct (missed) critical skill points from the “top” number; this is the student’s final score for the station.
- Circle the final score and sign your name at the bottom of the skill sheet.
- Return the skill sheet to the assignment area coordinator as directed by the IC.
- Send the student back to the assignment area coordinator

Reminders

- ✓ Don't teach or lead students.
- ✓ Do not ask additional knowledge questions.
- ✓ Students are generally nervous. Please attempt to create a relaxed atmosphere.

- ✓ Students who make and correct mistakes on their own should not be penalized for the (self-corrected) mistake.
- ✓ All tasks that the student failed to perform must have a specific explanation written on the bottom or reverse of the skill sheet on which the task appears.
- ✓ Do not discuss the skill station or outcome of the skill examination. Refer all questions regarding student performance or outcome of the skill examination to the Instructor Coordinator.
- ✓ There are many ways to complete splinting skills, please keep in mind that general principles are being tested.

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Station #4 Practical Test Assistant Instructions

Introduction

1. Introduce yourself to the student.
2. Fill in the student and evaluator information on the exam skill sheet
3. Read the following to the student (for station based exams):

Procedure

1. Read the following to the candidates:

"This is the splinting station. At this station each of you will:

(for First Responder) – splint a long bone fracture

(for EMT-Basic) - randomly select a fracture or dislocation and demonstrate its proper management.

While one of you is managing the injury, the other may act as a silent, trained helper; then you will reverse roles. Each of you will be scored independently. You are expected to manage the injury in accordance with the principals of splinting. I will observe you so it is unnecessary for you to explain to me what you are doing."

You will have 20 minutes to complete this station. When you are ready to begin, please tell me and I will indicate that the exam has started and I will begin timing you. When you complete each skill, tell me that you are finished. I will notify you when you have no other skills to perform at this station. At that time, I will complete your skill sheet and return it to you. You'll then return it to the Assignment Area Coordinator."

(Note for Practical Test Assistants: If the student does not tell you that he or she is finished performing a skill, after a reasonable time ask the student "Have you finished performing the skill". Do not ask such questions as "Is there anything else you'd like to do" or "Are you sure you've completed all of the tasks?" Once the student indicates that he or she has completed the skill, move onto the next skill or, if the student has had the opportunity to perform all of the required skills, inform the student that the skill station has concluded, total and circle the total points awarded on the skill sheet, sign the skill sheet and give it to the student, instructing him or her to return the skill sheet immediately to the assignment area coordinator.)

2. Have each candidate select an envelope. Open only one envelope at a time and complete the management of the injury and scoring of the first candidate before opening the second envelope.
3. Observe each candidate's performance carefully - utilizing the criteria on the skill sheet.

Completing the Exam Process

1. Fill-in the “Start Time”, “Stop Time”, “Date”, Student’s Name “ (i.e. the student’s name) and “Evaluator’s Name” (i.e. the Practical Test Assistant’s Name)
2. Fill-in the “Points Awarded” section of each skill task. If the student performs the task, award the point. If the student fails to complete the task, enter “0” in the “Points Awarded” box
3. Make a note at the bottom or on the reverse side of the sheet indicating why the point was not awarded for each task that the student fails to perform. The note should include what the student did or did not do and why the point was not awarded
4. Use the Critical Skills Section at the bottom of the skill sheet to note any missed critical skills. Each missed critical skill deducts 3 points from the “top” score.
5. Total the numbers at the “top”, then deduct (missed) critical skill points from the “top” number; this is the student’s final score for the station.
6. Circle the final score and sign your name at the bottom of the skill sheet.
7. Return the skill sheet to the assignment area coordinator as directed by the IC.
8. Send the student back to the assignment area coordinator